

Julie Parsley
Commissioner

Paul Hudson
Chairman

Barry T. Smitherman
Commissioner

W. Lane Lanford
Executive Director



Public Utility Commission of Texas

September 30, 2004

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A306
Washington, D.C. 20554

Irene Flannery
Vice President, High Cost & Low Income Division
Universal Service Administrative Company
2120 L Street, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20037

RE: State Certification of Federal High-Cost Support, CC Docket No. 96-45

To the Filing Representatives:

Below is a list of carriers¹ certified by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Texas PUC) in accordance with 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313 and 54.314,² which established an annual state certification process for those carriers that have received eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) designation in Texas seeking high-cost support from the federal universal service fund. The Texas PUC certifies that all federal high-cost support³ provided to the following carriers in this state will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with § 254(e) of the Federal Telecommunications Act.

Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) in Texas

1. Alenco Communications, Inc. d/b/a ACI (442090)
2. AMA TechTel (CLEC NR)⁴ (449020)
3. Big Bend Telephone Company, Inc. (442039)

¹ This list includes each carrier's study area code, if available, assigned by the National Exchange Carriers Association (NECA).

² See Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) *Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in CC Docket No. 96-45, and *Report and Order* in CC Docket No. 00-256 (May 23, 2001).

³ This includes high-cost loop support, local switching support, high-cost model support, hold harmless support, and high-cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges.

⁴ Any carrier on this list not identified as a competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) is an incumbent local exchange carrier. Any carrier on this list that is not identified as "non-rural" (NR) is a "rural" carrier. The designations of "rural" and "non-rural" are federal designations obtained by the carrier through a federal self-certification process and are recognized solely for the purpose of federal USF support.

4. Blossom Telephone Company, Inc. (442038)
5. Border to Border Communications, Inc. (442073)
6. Brazoria Telephone Company (442040)
7. Brazos Telecommunications, Inc. (CLEC) (442041)
8. Brazos Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442041)
9. Cameron Telephone Company, L.L.C. – Texas (440425)
10. Cap Rock Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442046)
11. Central Telephone Company of Texas d/b/a Sprint/Centel (442114)
12. Central Texas Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442052)
13. CenturyTel of Lake Dallas, Inc. (442101)
14. CenturyTel of Northwest Louisiana, Inc. (270431)
15. CenturyTel of Port Aransas, Inc. (442117)
16. CenturyTel of San Marcos, Inc. (442140)
17. Coleman County Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442057)
18. Colorado Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442059)
19. Comanche County Telephone Company, Inc. (442060)
20. Community Telephone Company, Inc. (442061)
21. Consolidated Communications (f/k/a Fort Bend Telephone) (442072)
22. Consolidated Communications (f/k/a/ TXU) (442109)
23. Cumby Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (CLEC-NR) (449004)
24. Cumby Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (ILEC) (442065)
25. Dell Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442066)
26. Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442068)
27. Electra Telephone Company, Inc. (442069)
28. ENMR Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442262)
29. Etex Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442070)
30. ETS Telephone Company, Inc. (CLEC-NR) (442091)
31. FEC Communications (445126)
32. Five Area Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442071)
33. Ganado Telephone Company, Inc. (442076)
34. GCEC Technologies, Inc. (CLEC-NR) (449012)
35. Grande Communications, Inc. (CLEC) (449015)
36. Guadalupe Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442083)
37. Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442086)
38. Industry Telephone Company (442093)
39. Kerrville Telephone Company (442097)
40. Lake Livingston Telephone Company (442104)
41. La Ward Telephone Exchange, Inc. (442103)
42. Leaco Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (492264)
43. Lipan Telephone Co., Inc. (442105)
44. Livingston Telephone Company (442107)
45. Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442112)
46. nii Communications, Ltd. (CLEC-NR) (449008)
47. Nortex Communications (442116)
48. Nortex Telecom, L.L.C. (CLEC-NR) (449005)
49. North Texas Telephone Company, Inc. (442043)
50. NTS Communications⁵
51. Panhandle Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (432016)

⁵ NTS was unable to provide its study area code because USAC has not yet assigned one. Mr. Daniel Wheeler, General Counsel for NTS, advises an application for this assignment has been made and is pending in the federal jurisdiction.

52. Panhandle Telecommunications, Systems, Inc. (CLEC) (449019)
53. Peoples Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442130)
54. Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442131)
55. Rivera Telephone Company, Inc. (442134)
56. Sage Telecom of Texas, L.P. (CLEC-NR) (449010)
57. Santa Rosa Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (CLEC) (449006)
58. Santa Rosa Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442141)
59. South Plains Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442143)
60. Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (401724)
61. Southwest Texas Telephone Company (442135)
62. Sugar Land Telephone Company (442147)
63. Tatum Telephone Company, Inc. (442150)
64. Taylor Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442151)
65. Texas ALLTEL, Inc. (442153)
66. United Telephone Company of Texas, Inc. d/b/a Sprint/United (442084)
67. Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442159)
68. Valor Telecommunications of Texas, LP (441163)
69. Vantage Systems⁶
70. Verizon Southwest TXC (NR) (442154)⁷
71. Verizon Southwest TXG (NR) (442080)
72. Vycera Communications, Inc. (CLEC-NR) (449021)
73. W.T. Services, Inc. (CLEC) (449001)
74. West Plains Telecommunications, Inc. (442071)
75. West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442166)
76. Western Wireless Corporation (CMRS) (449003)
77. Wes-Tex Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442168)
78. XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (442170)
79. XIT Telecommunications & Technology, Inc. (CLEC) (449002)

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact Rosemary McMahon in our Policy Development Division, (512) 936-7244.

Respectfully submitted,

/S/

Pam Whittington
Division Director, Policy Development Division

p:\federal (2005)\usf\2005 state fusf certification\2005statecertificationletter.doc

⁶ Vantage has not implemented service in Texas but anticipates doing so in calendar year 2004, and serving rural as well as non-rural exchanges in the state. Mr. W. Cullen Calloway, President of Vantage Systems, advised that Vantage has not yet been assigned a study area code by the Universal Service Administrator but is in the process of making its application for a study area code and the receipt of FUSF.

⁷ Verizon Southwest TXC (previously d/b/a Contel), and Verizon Southwest TXG (previously d/b/a GTE) still maintain separate tariffs and rates.